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State Students Talk Of N.S.A.

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(Staff Writer)

The New Jersey Regional Chairman of the National Student Association yesterday said he was shocked and appalled to learn the Central Intelligence Agency secretly had been helping to finance the student organization since 1952.

Chairman Frank Nero, 20, a student of social science at Newark State College in Union, said, "I feel as do many involved, directly with the National Student Association, that it is both dishonest and intolerable for any open democratic organization to foster such an affiliation."

Nero objects in general to taking funds from the C. I. A. because of its connotations, but, depending on the agency involved, condones forthright subsidies by the federal government to student organizations.

Legislative leaders across the Country, including United States Representative Charles S. Jolson, (D., N. J.) said an investigation is necessary.

Student government officials at New Jersey Colleges were divided. Some felt academic freedom was being challenged. Others thought C. I. A. involvement necessary to offset international student groups that have been influenced by Communists or have been exposed to their influence since World War II.

The hubbub was created by an article in the next issue of Ramparts Magazine which charges the C. I. A. used staff members of the N. S. A. as undercover agents abroad and arranged for draft deferments for Association officials.

There are 10 New Jersey student governments in the Association and three seeking affiliation, Nero said.

The New Jersey chapters are Rutgers University, Douglas University, Fairleigh Dickinson University of Teaneck, Princeton, Trenton State College, Newark State College, Bloom-

field College, Drew University, St. Elizabeth's College, and Seton Hall at South Orange.

Three student governments seeking membership are at Fairleigh Dickinson University, in Madison, Glassboro College, and St. Peter's College.

Congressman Jolson said he has not studied the incident deeply, but feels it is bad for the government to underwrite political thought and activity in the academic community.

John Runyon, president of the student body at Drew University, an N. S. A. chapter, said that at a regular meeting of the Student Senate scheduled for Monday night consideration would be given to withdrawing from the N. S. A.

Runyon said, "Last summer at the National Student Association Congress many students wanted a stronger stand on Vietnam. But the leaders of N. S. A. guided the Congress to move for a moderate position. Revelation of aid from the C. I. A. is disturbing, as the government agency may have been a motivating force in N. S. A. actions."

David Kastens, N. S. A. coordinator at Fairleigh Dickinson, disagrees. About C. I. A. involvement, he said "I don't see anything wrong with it. The C. I. A. was doing it for a just cause and there's no reason the N. S. A. can't work for the Country; anything that will fight Communism is good."

Kastens said that the N. S. A. fund did not mean it is under government control. He pointed to the N. S. A.'s opposition to the Vietnam policy as an instance where the N. S. A. bucked the government and the student group's opposition to moves by a House UnAmerican Activities Committee to subpoena records at the University of Michigan and the University of California.

He said 18 voters on the Fairleigh Dickinson Student Council would decide today whether to send a vote of

confidence to N. S. A. headquarters in Washington.

Joseph Kloza, president, said of the N. S. A.'s liberal leanings, "If the C. I. A. is giving money to a group there must be some concurrence with C. I. A. ideas. It seems like an incongruous group for the C. I. A. to go in with."

Joseph Naumann, president of the student council, Seton Hall, Paterson Branch, said he has no objection to open federal subsidies, but does not like the clandestine approach or C. I. A. involvement. His student government is not aligned with the N. S. A.

Thomas Heim, Student Council president of Seton Hall, South Orange, said he is opposed to the C. I. A.'s role in the national group, but added, "I am more violently opposed to Communism. Therefore, if the President and the C. I. A. deemed it necessary to investigate Communist subversion activities through N. S. A. to deter the spread of Communism, I am 100 percent in favor of their actions."

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